

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of	)	
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NEUSS	)	
	)	
Serial Number to be assigned	)	Attention:
	)	PCT OFFICE
International App. PCT/EP00/04658	)	DO/EO
	)	
For: RADIALLY EXPANDABLE	)	
VESSEL SUPPORT	)	

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-24 and add new claims 25-44 as follows:

25. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support comprises a plurality of coupled flexible zigzag formed annular elements ordered vertically along a longitudinal axis, the zigzag formed annular elements define a proximal end and a distal end of the intraluminal vascular support,

Wherein each zigzag annular element is coupled to at least one other annular element through at least one bending element, which is formed from an opposing pair of equivalent opening bow shaped connector bars, a pair of S-shaped connector bars, or H-shaped connector bars on the circumference of the zigzag annular elements.

26. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 25, wherein the width of the bow shaped connector bars, or the S-shaped connector bars, is 10 to 50%, preferably 30%, smaller than the width of a straight formed connector bar of the zigzag formed annular elements.

27. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 25, wherein the zigzag formed annular elements are fitted with round bows, or C-shaped bows, or with hairpin shaped bows, or with bracket shaped bows.

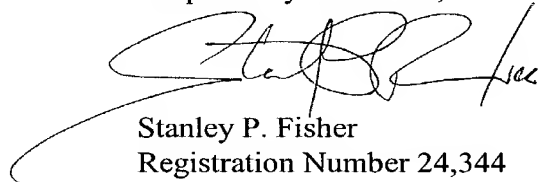
37. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 36 is constructed from alloy of nickel-titanium so that the support is self-expanding after heat treatment.

38. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 25 is constructed from a resorbable synthetic material.
39. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 25 is coated or covered with a thin walled foil of a biocompatible material.
40. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 25 is coated with medication so as to hinder the hyper proliferation of the vascular wall.
41. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 40, wherein the medication coating is so constructed that the medication is slowly released in order to hinder the hyper proliferation of the vascular wall.
42. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 39, wherein the coating or cover releases radiation either through radioactive decay or irradiation.
43. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 40, wherein the coating or cover releases radiation either through radioactive decay or irradiation.
44. A radially expandable intraluminal vascular support of claim 39, wherein the biocompatible material is a biocompatible fabric constructed from one or more polyurethane, silicone, Teflon, or polyester.

## REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are being cancelled claims 1-24 without prejudice and without disclaimer, and new claims 25-44 are being added corresponding to the embodiments disclosed in the priority document DE Pat. App. 199 36 483.4 filed on August 3, 1999. Applicant submits that the detailed amendments are fully supported by the specification and no new matter has been added to the application by the present Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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